Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of diagnosis comprising:

administering a contrast agent comprising solid metal nano-particles having an acoustic impedance above 35.10^5 g/cm^{2}s to an animal or human subject;

applying an ultrasonic sound wave to the animal or human subject; and

receiving ultrasound sound wave reflections produced by the ultrasonic wave in the animal or human subject, including ultrasound sound wave reflections from the nano-particles.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of imaging an isolated tissue sample or organ, comprising:

administrating a contrast agent comprising solid metal nano-particles having an acoustic impedance above 35.10^5 g/cm^{2}s to said tissue sample or organ;

applying an ultrasonic sound wave to the sample or organ; and

receiving ultrasound sound wave reflections produced by the ultrasonic wave in the sample or organ, including ultrasound sound wave reflections from the nano-particles.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the contrasting agent has an acoustic impedance of above 50.10^5 g/cm^{2}s.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal nano-

particles have a diameter of between 1 nm and 100 nm.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal nano-particles have a diameter of between 1 nm and 50 nm.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal is non-magnetic.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, palladium, tungsten or tantalum, rhenium, or a mixture thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal is a noble metal.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, which further comprises one or more coatings.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the coating comprises natural or synthetic carbohydrates, synthetic polyaminoacids, or physiologically tolerable synthetic polymers or derivatives thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the one or more coating comprises a therapeutic agent.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, characterized in that one or more bio-target-specific molecules are attached to the surface of the metal particle.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the bio-target-

specific molecule recognizes a target which is selected from the group consisting of a cellular marker, a pathogen and a foreign and/or toxic agent.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the bio-target-specific molecule is an antibody or a fragment thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein administering the contrast agent comprises orally administering one of a tablet and a capsule including the contrast agent.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the metal is rhenium.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the metal is rhenium.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the contrasting agent has an acoustic impedance of above 50.10^5 g/cm^{2}s.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, palladium, tungsten or tantalum, rhenium, or a mixture thereof.